

the door. Don't go out.' But the (soldiers) gave the order to come down and they came down."

Within three years Mrs. Minassian would be an orphan, the same age of many of the children in church who participated in a candle-lighting ceremony in honor of their family members who had died in the genocide. Looking out at the young faces in the front pews, Mrs. Minassian said, "Don't forget our struggle."

Stephen A. Kurkjian, a reporter for the Boston Globe for 38 years, has written about many high-profile events. However, sharing the story of his father's family was not one of them.

"I was not an appreciating Armenian until 1992, when I accompanied my 83-year-old father to the village where he was born," Mr. Kurkjian said at the Martyrs' Day commemoration. "The sadness hit me like a sledgehammer. I started asking, 'How could this happen?'"

"I came back and wrote an article called 'Roots of Sorrow.' But now I'd add to that title, 'Seeds of Hope.'"

Mr. Kurkjian's father lost his father, brother and sister in the genocide of 1915; he survived after making the 300-mile trek to Syria with his mother, and later to America.

"My father would say out of tragedy there was opportunity for liberty and religious freedom. There was education and economic opportunity in America. I would have never had the successes I've had. Instead I would have worked at a small weekly in a mountain village."

"I asked my Der Hayr (priest), 'How this could happen?'" Mr. Kurkjian said. "He said, 'God would not have allowed the first Christian church to not have survived.' That's as good an answer as you are going to get."

With the internal awakening about his heritage Mr. Kurkjian has traveled to Turkey and watched pressure build on the Turkish government to reassess its position that downplays references to the genocide.

Robin Garabedian, a junior at Doherty Memorial High School whose family has been with the Armenian Church of Our Saviour since her grandmother's family immigrated to Worcester, said she was 7 years old when her father told her about the genocide. In reading her award-winning essay, "Why Remembrance of the Genocide is Important," she quoted Adolf Hitler as saying, "Who today remembers the extermination of the Armenians?" as rationalization for the Holocaust.

"How does someone hate someone else so much?" Robin asked in anger. "If the world had stood up (against) the Armenian genocide, there wouldn't have been genocide of the Jews, or in Cambodia in the '70s, or in Darfur today."

H.R. 1374—FLORIDA NATIONAL FOREST LAND

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, today the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee considered S. 934, a companion bill to H.R. 1374, which passed the House of Representatives on December 17, 2007. This legislation provides the Forestry Service the flexibility they need to properly manage their assets. This legislation modifies the Florida National Forest Land Management Act in two simple ways which will provide the

Forest Service essential authority to manage the national forests in Florida effectively.

The first provision simply adds an unmanageable tract of land located in Tallahassee, FL to the list of lands the Secretary of Agriculture is currently authorized to sell. This specific property, tract W-1979, is approximately 114 acres of land that has evolved into an unmanageable, problem area for the Apalachicola National Forest. Due to the configuration and surrounding development, the vegetation cannot be managed through prescribed fire. Although a very valuable tract from a real estate/commercial aspect, this tract has lost its national forest character. The sale of this land will allow the Forest Service to purchase other lands located within the Forest that are more manageable and will enhance national forests in Florida.

Secondly, this legislation would allow the Forest Service to use proceeds from the sale of other "non-green land" to be used for construction and improvements to administrative facilities essential to the proper management of the Forest. These "non-green land" tracts of land are owned by the Forest Service, but have urban improvements like fairgrounds or sporting complexes and are not conducive to the overall purpose of protecting our national forests.

This legislation would allow the Service to use the proceeds from the sale of improved lands to build critical infrastructure they need to manage the forests in Florida, while allowing the forest service to continue its practice of using receipts from all non-developed "green land" tracts for the acquisition of other "green land" tracts to enhance the national forests in Florida. I am pleased that this legislation is moving forward and the Forest Service will have the ability to efficiently and effectively manage our Nation's precious resources.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EARTH DAY COALITION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Earth Day Coalition of Cleveland, as they celebrate EarthFest 2008 on April 20, 2008—a date that also commemorates the 19th annual celebration of EarthFest in Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland's Earth Day Coalition was formed in 1990 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Earth Day in Ohio. EarthFest is now Ohio's largest environmental educational event and one of the most successful Earth Day events in the country. I stand in recognition of the staff and volunteers of the Earth Day Coalition for all their effort and dedication in creating such an innovative, exciting and educational event for the Great Cleveland community to enjoy. This year, EarthFest 2008 will be entirely wind powered, signifying the ability of the Earth Day Coalition in effectively demonstrating the need and possibilities of alternative forms of energy. The event features over 160 environmental exhibits and displays, all focused on educating the community about sustainability efforts and solutions to climate change. EarthFest is just one of Earth Day Coalition's many nationally-recognized pro-

grams and promises once again to be a significant aspect of the world celebration of Earth Day.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognitions of the staff, volunteer and members of the Earth Day Coalition as we celebrate EarthFest 2008 on April 20, 2008. EarthFest 2008 promises to educate, inspire and motivate all of us to join together as a community and work toward maintaining a more healthy earth for future generations.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR SECURE ELECTIONS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share my views on H.R. 5036, the Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act.

As both a Member of the Committee on House Administration which has considered this issue for many months and a former mayor who was responsible for overseeing elections for many years, I know how important it is that people have confidence in their votes. This bill is part of an effort to ensure that we improve that confidence, which has waned in recent years.

There are good provisions in this bill. I believe firmly that the best way to ensure that votes are cast as intended and counted accurately, is to provide paper ballots that the voters themselves mark. This bill helps move the Nation in that direction by providing optional funding for many localities that wish to switch to paper ballots. For this reason, I support it.

However, there are some shortcomings in this legislation that I feel must be stated for the record. I do not personally believe that it is the most effective use of Federal resources to give states funding in order for them to add on printers to Direct Recording Electronic devices (DREs). I don't believe that "paper trails" are an adequate substitute for real paper ballots and for this reason, I have concerns about giving states the funding to retrofit their DREs rather than simply incentivizing the switch to real paper ballots.

Similarly, I am discouraged that the bill does not allow jurisdictions with DREs that produce a paper trail access to Federal funds to switch to real paper ballots. Many jurisdictions across the country have come to the conclusion that paper ballots, not electronic voting machines with paper trails, are the most reliable type of voting system. By denying some jurisdictions the Federal resources to make that positive switch, the bill fails to reward those who are making the commitment to switch to what many believe is the best system.

However, I am supporting this bill. Because it is not overly prescriptive, I hope that many jurisdictions consider utilizing its positive provisions, should it become law. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on the committee and in the full House toward a better and more trustworthy vote.